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COLONY OF MAURITIUS.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

DIRECTOR, MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT

FOR THE YEAR

1898.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PARTY OF

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REPORT

OF THE

DIRECTOR, MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT

FOR THE YEAR 1898.

THE DIRECTOR, MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT TO THE HONORABLE THE COLONIAL SECRETARY.

31st. January, 1900.

The Honorable

The Colonial Secretary.

Sir,

I have the honour to submit for the information of His Excellency the Governor and for transmission to the Right Honorable the Secretary of State, the Medical Report on the health and sanitary condition of Mauritius for the year 1898, together with the Returns, &c., appended thereto.

I have, &c.,

E. CHASTELLIER, M.D., Edin.,

Director.

REPORT.

The estimated population for 1898 was 378,872 being an increase of 1,016 during the year.

The birth-rate of the year was 36.3 per thousand and the death-rate of the Colony 31.9. These figures were 36.1 and 29.5 respectively in 1897.

Number of Hospitals and Dispensaries.

The year under report opened with nine Public Hospitals including the Lunatic Asylum and twenty-one Dispensaries, the same number as in the previous year.

Sick treated.

The total number of in-door and out-door patients treated during 1898 as compared with 1897 was as under:

		1897.			1898.
In-door patients	•••	18,207	•••	•••	20,464
Out-door patients		59,751	•••	•••	54,521

Death-rate.

The death-rate per thousand of the in-patients treated in all the Public Hospitals was 57.6 and varied in the several districts from a minimum of 16.7 in the Lunatic Asylum to a maximum of 114.3 in Flacq Hospital.

In 1897 the death-rate per thousand among Hospital patients was 56.96.

The increase in the number of admissions was as usual principally for malarial fever, the different types of which head the list of sickness.

The favourable climatic conditions which obtained in 1897 were absent in 1898, which was a comparatively rainy year.

The rainfall in inches was 47.76 against 27,26 in 1897.

The degree of humidity, viz: 81.6 in the month of January 1898 also exerted a baneful influence on the health of the Colony and the incidence of malaria made itself manifest in the subsequent month, during which the largest number of cases of fever were under treatment.

Another factor in the causation of malaria was the cyclonomic disturbances which occurred on the 6th. to 9th. February. Although the rainfall for the month of February was only 3.70 or 3.14 below the average, yet the disturbed condition of the atmosphere and the effluvia resulting from decaying vegetable matter contributed in some measure to the general unhealthiness of the season which made itself felt with special emphasis in Port Louis where the local conditions are unfavorable, especially in the suburbs.

From the 17th. to the 21st. December 1898, another cyclone visited the Colony, giving an average rainfull of 5.70 inches for that month.

There were limited outbreaks of malarial fever in several of the low-lying districts which were not, however, very severe-

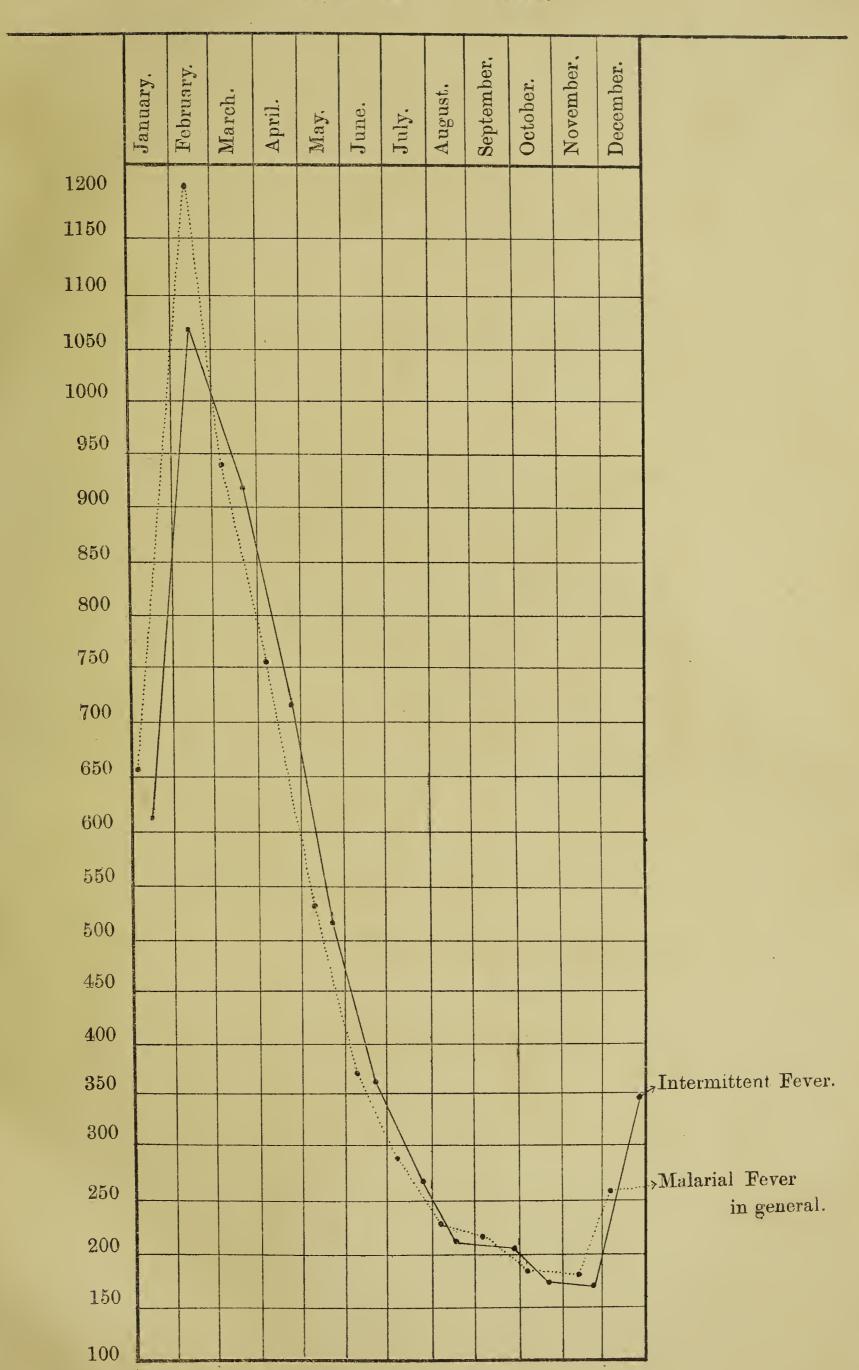
The most common form of fever was the intermittent type, which gave 5,610 cases and 116 deaths.

The remittent type numbered 153 cases and 10 deaths.

Annexed is a diagram showing the number of cases of fever of the different types in each month and of intermittent fever in particular.

The mortality in Prison Hospitals though not very high shows a higher percentage than last year. In Port Louis Prisons

Diagram showing NUMBER of CASES of MALARIAL FEVER admitted in 1898.





there were 17 deaths or 15 per thousand patients treated against 12 deaths or 13.03 per thousand patients in 1897.

Beau Basssin New Central Prisons had a death-rate of 32 per thousand against 26.9 in 1897, although the number of prisoners under treatment was slightly less than in the preceding year, viz: 1,157 in 1898 against 1,589 in 1897.

The highest rate of sickness and mortality was among new admitted prisoners and short sentenced "detenus".

The sanitary conditions of these Prisons have slightly improved, a result brought about by certain improvements carried on during the year.

The Colony was free from any epidemic disease during the year. Of contagious and infectious disorders, there was one case of small pox (not shown in the tabular statement) which was of exotic origin; the patient being a carpenter on one of the Royal Mail Castle Liners who was sent to an Island Lazaret 2! miles from the main land, the case was a very mild one and the patient recovered.

Apart from influenza which gave but 736 cases and 37 deaths, 25 other cases of infectious diseases were treated; among these may be mentioned diphtheria, 3 cases no death, enteric fever, 22 cases and 3 deaths. Two cases are returned as cholera but were in reality choleraic diarrhœa of a non-infectious nature.

The general sanitary condition of the Colony during 1898 although not worse than in 1897 was still below par. The death-rate of 1898 for the Colony was 31.9 against 29.5 in 1897 and 41.9 in 1896. It must, however, be remarked that 1896 was a particularly bad year, as its rate of mortality was the highest, but one, since the fever epidemic of 1867.

The chief factor in causing the high rate of mortality was, as of yore, malarial fevers.

Phthisis is steadily increasing in this Colony although the Hospital statistics do not show much difference in this respect in comparison with former years.

The sanitary state of the chief town, Port Louis, was worse than in the preceding year, the causes at work being principally due to bad drainage, defective water supply and last but not least, overcrowding.

E. CHASTEULIER, M.D., Edin.,

Director.

RETURN OF THE STATISTICS OF POPULATION FOR THE YEAR 1898.

	GENERAL PO	OPULATION.	Indian Population.			
	Europeans, Whites, Africans, Mixed and Coloured.	Chinese.	Creole Indians.	Immigrants.		
Number of inhabitants in 1897 "Births during the year 1898 "Deaths "1898 "Immigrants "1898 "Emigrants "1898 Number of inhabitants in 1898 Increase or Decrease		72 166 1,299 1,426	260,542* 6,243 5,177 1,915 5,188 260,370* 	2,734 3,083 896		

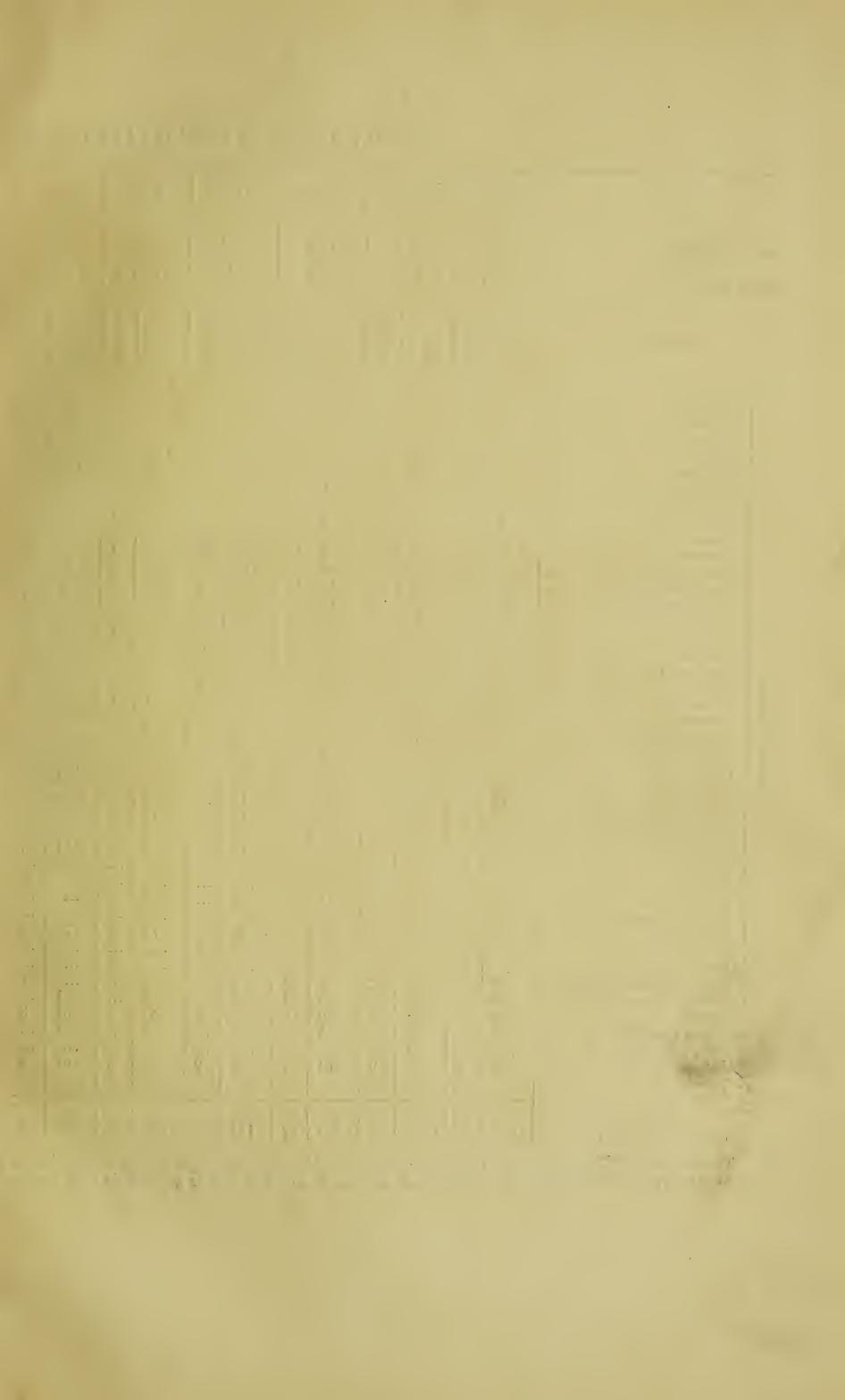
[†] Including Chinese.

* do. Immigrants.

METEOROLOGICAL RETURN FOR THE YEAR 1898.

			TEMPER	ATURE.			RAIN	FALL.	Wini	os.	
	Solar Maximum.	Minimum on Grass.	Shade Maximum.	Shade Minimum.	Range.	. Mean.	Amount in Inches.	Degrees of Humidity.	General Direction.	Average Force.	Remarks.
January	* 156.3	* 65.8	* o 90.4	* ₀ 68.0	22.4	† o 79.0	6.48	† P.C. 81.6	E. S.E. to E.b.N.	Miles. 9.7	Lightning, Thunder or both on 23 days, the most on record.
February	165.5	61.1	92.1	64.1	28.0	78.6	3.70	79.3	E.S.E.	10.2	Rainfall 3.14 below average.
March	156.0	62.1	88.9	65.9	23.0	77.8	6.53	84.0	E.S.E.	9.7	average.
April	152.6	61.4	89.4	65. 2	24.2	77.4	4.82	79.0	E.S.E. & E. b. S.	14.0	Velocity 3.3 above- average.
May	142.9	57. 0	84.4	61.4	23.0	72.1	8.32	82.2		12.9	Rainfall 3.88 above average.
June	137.4	47.9	80.4	52.3	28.1	68.7	1.11	76. 8	E.S.E.	12.2	
July	139.8	49.0	81.9	52.8	29.1	68.7	1.72	73.0	••••	12.3	
August	143.5	52.5	82.2	55.5	26.7	68.9	6.61	75.8	E.S.E.& E. b. S.	12.0	Rainfall 4.19 above average.
September	147.7	49.9	82.4	53.8	28.6	69.8	1.34	78.1	E.S.E.	10.8	.
October	153.4	52.6	87.7	55.9	31.8	72.3	0.53	72.6	S.E.b.E. to E.b.N.	10.3	Rainfall 66 o/o be- low average.
November	155.0	55.0	89.9	58.3	31.6	75.2	0.90	74.6	S.E.b.S. to E.N.E.	8.9	
December	157.7	60.1	91.4	63.6	27.8	78.6	5.70	74.1	E.S.E.to E.b.N.	10.4	

<sup>Absolute, not mean values.
Mean of 6 & 15 h.
Cyclones occurred in 1898, February 6 to 9, and December 17 to 21, to the E. of Mauritius.</sup>



5

MONTHLY RETURN OF DISEASES AND DEATHS

	Months.		Janua	ary.	Febru	a ry.	Marc	eh.	Apr	il.	Ma	y.	Jun	е.
	Mean Temperature Mean Humidity			79.0 81.6		78.6 79.3		8	77°.		72.		68.7 76.8	
	Diseases.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	
General Diseases.	Small-pox Measles Typhus Dengue Influenza Diphtheria Erbricula Enteric Fever Cholera Dysentery Malarial Fever (a) Intermittent (b) Remittent (c) Pernicious R. Erysipelas Pyæmia Septicæmia Tetanus Tubercle Leprosy (a) Tubercular (b) Anæsthetic Yaws Syphilis (a) Primary (b) Secondary (c) Inherited Gonorrhæa Hydrophobia Scurvy Alcoholism Delirium Tremens Rheumatism Rheumatic Fever Gout New Growth, non-malig New Growth, malignam Anæmia Diabetes mellitus Diabetes insipidus Debility Debility	nant.	1 60 202 424 20 6 6 12 10 13 22 27 95 95 39 1			1		3	44 44 105 181 537 29 7 5 2 4 4 17 13 1 15 3 3 90 1 40 46	27 10 3 3 2 2 2 1 2	51 51 71 132 393 20 2 6 7 1 3 6 20 14 2 10 74 2 1 42 1 38	1 11 6 6 6 1 1 3 1 3 1 3 3 3	150 182 97 259 7 9 10 1 4 19 10 3 11 76 76 67	
	Carried over	•••	1,068	28	1,482	52	1,369	57	1,164	66	899	42	850	62

The form shows the arrangement of diseases in the nomenclature of the Royal College of Physicians, according to type. To save space, the unimportant diseases of any class can be grouped in their places,

IN 1898 AT THE FOLLOWING INSTITUTIONS:-

July	v.	Aug	ust.	Septer	nber.	Octob	ber.	Noven	aber.	Decem	ber.			Remarks.
68.°	7	68.	9	69.	8	72.	3	75.	,2	78°.	6	Yearly Total.		
Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	
91 91 58 84 189 11 7 5 1 3 12 10 14 1 10 3 38 3 57	111	69 52 74 159 6 10 16 14 11 14 3 62 3 1 24 2 51	9 5 3	53 47 61 140 7 3 4 1 2 2 10 43 2 24 8 1 31	8 5 1 1	51 34 61 114 7 2 2 10 4 56 9 7 2 12 56 1 21 3 46		25 1 42 72 102 4 7 3 1 2 9 8 10 4 2 4 3 4 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3	1	12 6 39 107 136 5 2 1 1 3 3 16 6 1 12 18 3 3 18 3	1	726 3 22 2 774 1,733 3,777 153 63 55 8 3 19 73 1 27 1 91 171 162 17 173 22 818 1 20 22 818 36 25 547	37 37 31 131 63 53 10 18 13 62 9 18 2 4 1 3 5 18 90	
- 658-	48	577	40	- 4 67	17	~ 45 0.	34	450	27	474,	23	9,908	496	

1896 edition. Important diseases are to be arranged in like order. Malarial Fevers should be distinguished as "Other Diseases" of the class.

MONTHLY RETURN OF DISEASES AND DEATHS

1												
Months.	Janua	ry.	Febru	ary.	Mar	ch.	Apr	il.	Maj	у.	Jun	ie.
Mean Temperature	79.0	79.0		$7\mathring{8}.6$		8	77.4		72.1		68.	.7
Mean Humidity	81.6		79.3		84.	0	79.0		82.2		76.8	
Diseases.	Cases.	Deaths.	Casea.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases,	Deaths.
	Ca	Ď	Ca	Ď	<u> </u>	٦	ို - က	ا مّ	ပိ	Ď	Ca	Ď
Brought forward	1,068	28	1,482	52	1,369	57	1,164	66	899	42	850	62
Diseases of the Nerves-												
Meningitis Meningitis Myelitis Myelitis Hydrocephalus Encephalitis Abscess of Brain Congestion of Brain Functional Nervous	10	 1 2 2	2 5 2 1	2 2 	1 8 4	1 4 1 2	2 8 	1 1 	1 2 1 2	1	1 3 4 5	1 2
Disorders — Output Disorders — Apoplexy Paralysis Chorea Epilepsy Neuralgia Head of Head o	. 16 . 2 . 54 . 18	1	1 20 15 13 5	2	3 11 18 10 4	2 1 1	2 5 14 20 3	3	1 12 9 18 1	1 1	14 1 10 12 3	
Mental Diseases— Mental Diseases— Mental Diseases— Mania Melancholia Dementia Delusional Insanity	279 3 40	•••	3 10 1 1 1	•••	4 7 1 2 	•••	1 9 2 2 1	1	3 4 1 3	•••	5 5 2	•••
Diseases of the Eye	. 0	•••	23 5		24		28	•••	20	•••	27	•••
,, ,, Nose	1 1	•••	1		•••				•••		•••	
System	. 14	5	17	7	19	4	18	3	41	8	23	8
System	2 39	19	189	22	238	20	184	23	199	22	235	23
	. 152	9	156	12	193	15	164	10	131	14	122	13
System "" "" "" "" "" "" "" "" "" "" "" "" "	29	•••	16	•••	15	1	23	•••	13	2	. 17	•••
System	. 36	2	30	1	54	6	34	6	35	7	30	6
Male Organs	38 26	•••	26 21	 2	26 18		23		20 11	•••	19 17	1
" " Organs of		•••	9		18	3	13	3		•••	10	1
Locomotion ,, ,, Cellular		9		···			8		12	1	79	1
Tissue	100	3	83 1 15	$\frac{2}{2}$	75 99	5	75 122	2	68 110	1	137	1
Total	2,832	72	2,252	106	2,228	125	1,930	122	1,623	99	1,635	119
	1								A STATE OF THE PARTY OF THE PAR	*****		

The form shows the arrangement of diseases in the nomenclature of the Royal College of Physicians, according to type. To save space, the unimportant diseases of any class can be grouped in their places

IN 1898 AT THE FOLLOWING INSTITUTIONS :-

T. 1. Contombon						0 / 1		NT 3		T) 1				D 1
July		Augus	t.	Septem	per.	Octobe	er.	Noveml	oer.	Decemb	oer.		-	Remarks.
68 . 7	,	68.9		6 9.8		72.3	1	75 . 2	10.0		Yearly Total.			
73.0		75 . 8		$7\mathring{8}.1$		72.6		74.6		$7\overset{\circ}{4}.1$		•		
en	Deaths.	es.	Deaths.	es.	Deaths	es.	Deaths.		Deaths.	es.	Deaths.	ت ي	Deaths.	
Саѕея.	Dea	Cases.	Dea	Cases.	De	Cases,	Dea	Cases.	Deg	Cases.	Des	Cases.	De	
658	48	577	40	467	17	450	.34	450	27	474	23	9,908	496	
 3 3	1	1	•••	1 3		$\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}$	• • •		•••	3 1	2	6 23	10	
	3	1 1		2		2	•••	$\begin{bmatrix} & 6 \\ \end{bmatrix}$	•••	•••	1	51 3	13 ₂	
$rac{\cdots}{2}$	1	3	1 		1	2		3	 1	1 2	•••	2 29	13	
~		9	_			-					•••			
5	4	1 8	2		2	1 5	•••	$\begin{vmatrix} 1 \\ 6 \end{vmatrix}$	ï	4 3	2 1	20	12 13	
10 20	2	13	 3	3		$\begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ \\ 22 \end{bmatrix}$	1	13	• • •	18	• • •	113 4 221	6	
16	•••	8		15 5	•••	13	•••	11 1	•••	10	•••	154 28		
6	•••	2	•••	7	•••	18	•••	3 5	•••	9	•••	53 359	• • •	
3	•••	•••	•••	4 1	•••	3 2	•••	2	•••	4 4	• • •	$\begin{bmatrix} 31 \\ 57 \\ 6 \end{bmatrix}$		•
20		10		20	•••	17	•••	25	•••	18	• • •	244	-	
6		4		1	•••	5 1	•••	2	•••	1 1		47	•••	·
26	5	23	7	19	5	22	6	15	1	13	6	250	65	
259	37	197	30	190	19	194	34	158	30	117	17	2,399	296	
129	6	123	7	121	4	85	7	106	8	106	3	1,588	108	
19		29	•••	25	2	17	•••	22	2	18	•••	243	7	
36	3	34	4	25	4	28	•••	42	4	26	4	410	47	
22	1	15			2	17 20	3	16 9	•••	26	1	269 185	5 8	
11	1	10		11	•••	8		5	•••	18	•••	114	8	
78	6	71	1	72	2	75	5	69	2	62	2:	898	32	
122		91	1	103		96	•••	84		74		1,292	4	
1,467	119	1,230	98	1,129	58	1,108	91	1,055	76	1,022	62	19,011	1,146	

1896 edition. Important diseases are to be arranged in like order. Malarial Fevers should be distinguished as "Other Diseases" of the class.

MONTHLY RETURN OF DISEASES AND DEATHS

Months.		January.		February.		Marc	sh.	Apr	il.	May.		June.	
Mean Temperature Mean Humidity	79.0 81.6		78.6 79.3		77. 8 4.		77°.		72.1 82.2		68.7 76.8		
Diseases.	,	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases. Deaths:		Cases.	Cases. Deaths.		Deaths.	Cases. Deaths.		Čases.	Deaths.
Brought forward	2,332	72	2,252	106	2,228	125	1,930	122	1,623	99	1,635	119	
Injuries, General	•••	6	•••	2	1	5		3	1	•••	•••	2	•••
" Local	•••	117	3	. 86	1	76		59	3	83		79	2
Surgical Operation	•••	36	1	37	3	37	4	34	2	36-	3	33	1
Malformations		•••	•• :	1	•••	•••		1	•••	•••	·	•••	•••
Poisons		•••	•••	•••	•••	•••		<u> </u>	****	2	1		•••
Parasites	. ,,,	3		9	, 3	•••	1	5	•••	12	. 1	4	
Total	-	2,494	76	2,386	114	2,346	129	2,031	128	1,756	103	1,753	122

The form shows the arrangement of diseases in the nomenclature of the Royal College of Physicians, according to type. To save space, the unimportant diseases of any class can be grouped in their places

IN 1898 AT THE FOLLOWING INSTITUTIONS:—

July	7.	Augu	st.	Septem	ber.	Octob	er.	Novem	ber.	Decem	ber.			Remarks.		
68°.		68. 75.		69. 78.		72°.			75.2 74.6		6	Yearly Total.		Yearly Total.		
Cases	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases,	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.			
1,467	119	1,230	98	1,129	58	1,108	91	1,055	76	1,022	62	19,011	1,146			
2	•••	•••	•••	5	•••	5	1	3	•••	•••	•••	33	3			
66		60	2	50	1	83		98	1	83	2	940	15			
28	•••	32	1	29	3	36	1	28	•••	41	100	407	19			
1	1	•••	•••	•••	•••	•••	•••		•••	•••	•••	1	1			
•••	•••	1		1		1		3	•••	•••	•••	8	•••			
3		7		5	1	3	•••	1	•••	2	1	54	6			
1,567	120	1,330	101	1,219	63	1,236	93	1,188	77	1,148	65	20,454	1,190			

1896 edition. Important diseases are to be arranged in like order. Malarial Fevers should be distinguished as "Other Diseases" of the class.

E. CHASTELLIER, M.D., Edin.,

Director, Medical and Health Department.

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